

Session 02 The Supremacy of Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-3)

I. THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS: SEVEN FACETS OF HIS MAGNIFICENCE

- A. **Review:** There is no aspect of God’s grace that more powerfully transforms our emotions or satisfies our heart than when the Spirit reveals Jesus to us. Paul gladly gave up all when he saw the majesty of Jesus! If we can see what Paul saw, then we can live like he lived. The Spirit longs to escort us into the deep things of God’s heart (Jn. 16:13-14; 1 Cor. 2:10-12). We need the Spirit’s power and revelation of Jesus in order to be obsessed with Jesus’ magnificence. The Spirit gives to us according to our hunger. He will not force the treasure of who Jesus is on us.

⁸I count all things loss for the excellence [magnificence] of the knowledge of Christ Jesus... (Phil. 3:8)

- B. Hebrews 1 is one of the great passages of Scripture about Jesus. It was written to equip the saints of that day to stand against heresies that denied Jesus’ deity and against compromise especially in the face of persecution. Hebrews 1 sets forth Jesus’ supremacy and preeminence over all. It brings together the truths of Jesus as the *royal Son* (Ps. 2), the *royal Priest* (Ps. 110), and the *royal Bridegroom* (Ps. 45). It highlights Jesus’ pre-existence as God, His incarnation as a man, and His eternal exaltation. There was never a time when Jesus did not exist. As the Incarnate One, He experienced human limitations in being hungry, weary, and even tempted. He will be exalted forever as the God-Man who is King of kings over all the nations of the earth.

- C. We note seven excellencies of Jesus: He is the heir of all, creator of the worlds, the radiance of God, the exact representation of the Father, and sustainer, redeemer, and ruler of the universe (Heb. 1). Each excellency illumines a different facet of the diamond of the splendor of Jesus.

¹God...²has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom...He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Heb. 1:1-3)

- D. ***God spoke to us by His Son:*** Jesus is the full and final message to humanity about God. To know what God is saying, we must look to Jesus. To refuse to hear what God says in Jesus is to refuse God. All religions do not lead to God. Jesus died that we might have a relationship with God.

II. #1 JESUS IS HEIR OF ALL

- A. The Father appointed one Man as the heir over all the property and resources on earth.

²Whom He has appointed heir of all things... (Heb. 1:2)

- B. The Romans proclaimed Caesar as the heir, rightful owner, of the nations. The leaders of Israel saw themselves as the “heirs” over the land of Israel. Both groups persecuted Jewish believers. It was a radical idea that a Jewish man who died as a criminal was the true heir of the world!

- C. The Father decreed that Jesus be given all the nations as His inheritance. This includes their governments, property, money, resources, and possessions on earth.
⁸*I [the Father] will give You the nations for Your inheritance... (Ps. 2:8)*
- D. Jesus will take over all the nations *only* on the basis of truth, humility, and righteousness (Ps. 45:4; Isa. 11:3-5; 42:1-4). He will dispense the resources with wisdom, justice, and generosity to cause love to increase. Jesus alone is our assurance that love will never diminish on the earth.
⁴*In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness... (Ps. 45:4, NIV)*
- E. John had a vision of the Father giving the title deed of the earth to Jesus (Rev. 5:1-8). This will result in Jesus receiving total authority over all society in the Millennium. He will own all the cities, property, money, banks, natural resources, oil and water rights, intellectual property, etc. of the earth. All on the earth will joyfully agree with Jesus taking over the nations (Rev. 5:13).
⁷*He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne...¹¹The voice of many angels...¹²saying..., “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing.” (Rev. 5:7, 11-12)*
- F. During the Millennium, Jesus will receive all the **power** (governmental authority); **riches** (money and natural resources); **wisdom** (intellectual ability and property); **strength** (physical strength, including the labor force and human resources); **glory** (praise, adulation, and love); **honor** (all will esteem Him with their obedience); and **blessing** (agreement with His policies with unified cooperation). Jesus will be the most powerful, wealthy, wise, supported, praised, loved, obeyed, respected, listened to, and talked about Man on the earth.

III. #2 JESUS IS THE CREATOR OF WORLDS

- A. Jesus created all things under the Father’s authority. Creation came into being through the Father’s plan, Jesus’ words, and the Spirit’s release of power. This truth answered the early church heresy that taught that Jesus was appointed heir, but was not divine.
²*Whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He made the worlds... (Heb. 1:2)*
- B. The common Greek word for “the physical world” is *kosmos*, but the word used here is *ionus*, which means “the ages.” Jesus created the physical and spiritual worlds and the time frames in which God’s storyline and eternal purposes unfold through the various ages. In other words, Jesus is the architect, with His Father, of the storyline that unfolds through the ages on earth.
- C. Jesus created the visible, natural, material world and the invisible, supernatural, spiritual world.
¹⁶*By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. (Col. 1:16)*
¹⁰*He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:10)*

IV. #3 JESUS IS THE RADIANCE OF GOD

- A. Jesus is the brightness or the radiance of the Father’s glory. The Greek word for “brightness” is *apaugosmo* and it speaks of God’s glory “pouring forth” or “streaming forth” from Jesus.

³*Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person... (Heb. 1:3)*

- B. To understand this truth, it is important to first know that Jesus is of the same nature, substance, and essence as the Father. Jesus is God, like the Father, yet is a distinct person from the Father. As a distinct Person, Jesus is the brightness or the pouring forth of the essence of God.

- C. The unspoken analogy behind this truth is the relationship of the sun to the rays of light that stream forth from it with great brightness. As the radiance of a ray of light streaming forth from the sun brings light to the earth, so Jesus brings the Father’s light to the earth. The brightness of the sun’s rays expresses the nature of the sun. However, the rays are not actually the sun itself, but they come from it. Since it was created, light has never ceased to radiate from the sun. They are so perfectly one that as long as the sun exists, the radiance of its rays will also exist.

- D. Paul applied this truth to our lives. The streaming of God’s brightness in the face of Jesus—through the person of Jesus—enters our heart. His radiance shines in us, imparting light. Jesus is the brightness of the Father’s glory. Thus, humans can experience the Father’s glory in Jesus and radiate His glory to others. It is a miracle that God’s light shines into and out of darkness.

⁶*It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:6)*

V. #4 JESUS IS THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF THE FATHER

- A. Jesus is the exact representation of the Father’s person (nature, substance, essence). The word *image* (Gk. *eikon*) means an exact representation. The Father’s *person* points to His substance or essence. The words *nature*, *substance*, and *essence* were used by the early fathers in the creeds.

³*Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person... (Heb. 1:3)*

- B. The brightness of the Father’s glory is made visible to humans only through Jesus. The quality of the brightness of the Father is perfect and does not deviate from truth. Some wrongly think that the God of the Old Testament is One of wrath, whereas the God of the New Testament is One of love. However, the Father and the Son are in perfect unity in both testaments.

¹⁵*He is the image of the invisible God... (Col. 1:15)*

- C. The fullness of the Father is contained and expressed through Jesus in a human body! The beauty of the Father’s love, wisdom, purity, and humility is shown through Jesus’ humanity. After the incarnation, Jesus had two natures—being fully God and fully man. Ian Thomas said, “Though Jesus was never less than God, He lived on earth as though He was never more than a Man.”

⁹*For in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily... (Col. 2:9)*

⁹*Jesus said to him, “...He who has seen Me has seen the Father...” (Jn. 14:9)*

VI. #5 JESUS IS THE SUSTAINER OF THE UNIVERSE

- A. Jesus sustains the worlds in the same way that He created them, by words that release His power (Gen. 1:3; Heb. 11:3). To *uphold* all things means to “sustain” or “support” them continuously.

³*And upholding all things by the word of His power... (Heb. 1:3)*

- B. Creation cannot sustain itself; it needs a continual impartation of power and energy to keep it in order. The universe operates according to laws of nature that are sustained by Jesus’ word. When scientists discover the laws of nature, they are discerning of the sustaining power of Jesus’ word.

VII. #6 JESUS IS THE REDEEMER OF THE UNIVERSE

- A. Jesus purged, or cleansed, the people and the created order from sin. He had to become human and then to offer Himself as the offering for sin. This was more difficult than creating the worlds.

³*...He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty... (Heb. 1:3)*

- B. Sin created a great crisis in creation by releasing death and demons that harm creation. The Father had to find a man untainted by sin to solve the crisis created by sin. Jesus had to become human (forever) and live in perfect righteousness to qualify as the offering for sin (Heb. 2:10-16; 5:8-9). Jesus, the innocent One, became guilty so that guilty ones could become innocent.

- C. Nothing is difficult for the God who governs all things merely by His word. However, God acknowledges one area of difficulty, that of providing salvation for us (1 Pet. 4:18). Accomplishing our salvation was complex and difficult. The way in which a righteous God restores people to Himself without violating His justice or their free will is complicated.

¹⁸*If it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved...? (1 Pet. 4:18; NAS)*

VIII. #7 JESUS IS THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE

- A. As a Man, Jesus was exalted to the Father’s right hand and enthroned as king (Mt. 28:18). Jesus’ enthronement to the highest position of honor is proof that the Father received His offering for our sin. The right hand of the Majesty is the ultimate place of power (Heb. 8:1).

³*When He...purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Heb. 1:3)*

- B. Both Ezekiel and Daniel saw a Man on a throne in heaven. The presence of a Man so exalted is a statement about God’s plans for the human race. This Man at the very pinnacle of power beckons the human race to rule with Him (Rev. 3:21). This is the greatest breakthrough in human history.

²⁶*A throne...like a sapphire stone...with the appearance of a man high above it. (Ezek. 1:26)*

¹³*Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days...¹⁴To Him was given dominion...that all peoples...should serve Him. (Dan. 7:13-14)*

²⁴*Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me... (Jn. 17:24)*